

The problem with this proposal is that whilst it seeks to prevent alreadyillegal copying activity, it does so at the considerable expense of preventing a wide range of legal activity.

Important activities such as the ability to quote small passages of a piece for the purpose of criticism - or to index said material - or merely to replay it on a non-Microsoft/Apple computer are effectively suppressed.

Furthermore, as has been shown on NUMEROUS occasions, this provision will not prevent people who are prepared to break existing laws from making copies of the material. It takes hardly any time for determined law breakers to break these copy protection schemes - I cite as examples, the encryption of DVD's and of the X-Box game console - both of which were broken in a matter of weeks.

Hence, the effect of this provision is to prevent legitimate activities such as viewing Digital Broadcasts on a Linux Computer or performing simple time-shifting - whilst doing almost nothing to prevent large scale theft of digital material.

That makes this a poor mandate - and I encourage you to drop it.